

REMARKS

Claims 21 and 54 have been amended. The dependency of claim 21 has been corrected. A missing word in claim 54 has been added.

In the Final Rejection, claims 2-19, 21-23, 30-35, 37-38, and 54-56 were rejected under 35 USC §112, ¶2 as being indefinite. As noted above, the dependency of claim 21 has now been corrected, and a word missing from claim 54 has been added to provide proper context.

The Examiner also rejected the claims by asserting that the term “unlaminated patches” in claims 54 and 56 rendered the claims indefinite and unclear. The Examiner asserted that “Without proper guidance from the original disclosure as to the intended meaning of the phrase, it would be difficult to determine the scope of the recited claims.” Applicants submit that the term is clear and definite.

Initially, applicants note that the Examiner has selected an inappropriate dictionary definition for the word “patches.” It is clear from the specification that the word “patches” is used in the sense of an area that differs from the surrounding area, e.g., areas of the material that are unlaminated. See, e.g., specification at page 3, lines 23-27. This comports with one of the definitions provided by Webster’s New Twentieth Century Dictionary (2d ed.):

Patch, n.
5. a surface area differing from its surroundings in nature or appearance; as *patches* of blue sky.

The Examiner is requested to withdraw this ground of rejection in his next communication.

With respect to the rejection of claims 2-6, 8-19, 21-23, 30-34, and 54-62 as anticipated by Leak et al, applicants re-assert and incorporate by reference herein their previous arguments contained in the Amendment filed on April 9, 2003. Nothing in Leak et al teaches, implicitly or explicitly, the subject matter of those claims.

For all of the reasons stated above, applicants submit that claims 2-19, 21-23, 30-35, 37-38 and 54-65 as amended are in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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